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Edwards, Alba M. *The Labor Legislation of Connecticut.* Pp. viii, 322. Price, \$1.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1907.

The publication of this monograph by the American Economic Association marks the passing of another milestone in the efforts the Carnegie Institution is furthering to collect material for an economic history of the United States.

The purpose of the author—"to discuss the labor legislation of Connecticut historically and critically, and . . . to trace the economic effects of the different laws"—has been admirably carried out. In scope the work covers factory legislation (including child labor), the employment contract, employers' liability, boycotting and blacklisting, free public employment bureaus, mediation and arbitration, the union label, the barbers' license law, and convict labor, with a separate chapter on the State Bureau of Labor Statistics. This bureau, though charged with an occasional wrong attitude on labor questions and with an inefficiency due to lack of sufficient legal powers, is credited with more or less accurate investigations and with aiding in the passage of important legislation. The State Board of Mediation and Arbitration is regarded as a failure, "due largely to a lack of confidence in the board."

Dr. Edwards frankly confesses that the greater part of the statistics he has been able to gather are incomplete and inaccurate:—which, it may be observed, is equally the case in other American Commonwealths. Connecticut is among the backward states in the failure to prohibit the employment of women and young persons at night or in dangerous occupations. But Connecticut is unique in the close and natural relation established between the child labor and the compulsory education laws, the enforcement of both of which is properly placed in the hands of the State Bureau of Education. Organized labor, while not always pursuing "a broad-minded policy," has been "the chief factor in securing labor legislation" since 1885. Employers have usually exhibited a commendable willingness to comply with the law, though they have not hesitated to defeat some excellent measures or to weaken them before they became law. Dr. Edwards is to be congratulated on having made a valuable contribution to the literature of social legislation, in a field in which the harvest is ripe and the laborers all too few.

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Fessenden, Francis. *Life and Public Services of William Pitt Fessenden.*

Two vols. Pp. xiv, 741. Price, \$5.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1907.

William Pitt Fessenden was a great senator and deserved a proper biography, but it cannot be said that the volumes by his son fulfil the need. Some day the work must be done over again. In the preface the editor states that the work was begun years ago by General Francis Fessenden, who spent ten years in gathering material. When he wrote out the life it was too long and had to be abridged. Perhaps this fact accounts for some of the defects in the work, for the spirit was condensed out of it. The two volumes